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Wm. Dowell, Ltd.

B-I-J-O-U

9.15 P.M. TO-NIGHT. 9.15 P.M.

NEW FEATURE  
THE FIRST  
(A. B.)American Bioscope  
Picture  
Screened in  
Houkang.THE SQUAW'S LOVE!  
THE SQUAW'S LOVE!  
Hereafter Another  
(A. B.)

EVERY CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.

Miss VIOLET BONETIA  
In New Town.

numbing sense of futility induced by a knowledge that whatever one may say, the guillotine will fall at 7.30 or 10.45. But whatever excuses may be made, the fact is indisputable that much of the discussion in the House of Commons is a mere waste of time. Threadbare arguments are used over and over again in almost the same language; a new idea or a new phrase is almost equally rare. Mr. Asquith says constituencies demand more speeches from their representatives than they used to do. We can hardly believe that an intelligent electorate can be so misguided as to clamour for the kind of talk with which we have lately been so tragically familiar, says the "Standard." But there is, decidedly, a very general feeling that the House should be made a more efficient vehicle for real debate, which is a very different thing. Forms should be given greater elasticity and flexibility, it should be less easy for the Government to evade inconvenient criticism, and some means should be provided to allow the private member to resume his ancient and useful function; that of expressing the real views of the electors, whether or not they happen to be welcome to the Government of which he is ordinarily a supporter. We hope that if, as seems probable after Mr. Asquith's sympathetic observations, a committee is appointed to go into the question, it will not simply touch the fringe of the subject, but will put forward proposals calculated to make the House of Commons a really businesslike assembly.

MEMO FOR TO-DAY.  
Bijou Scenic Theatre.  
MEMO FOR TO-MORROW.  
12.30 p.m.—Hongkong Jockey Club's Meeting.  
1 p.m.—V.R.C. Athletic Meeting.  
3.30 p.m.—First Gymkhana Meeting at Race Course, Happy Valley.

General Memoranda.  
SATURDAY, April 26:—  
Noon—Green Island Cement Co.'s Meeting.  
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## NEWS OF THE DAY.

The Japanese cruiser "Sagami" arrived yesterday afternoon.

An old Alleysians' Dinner will be held at the Hongkong Hotel on Saturday, the 24th instant.

The transfer of Major C. B. Harvey, R. E., from Hongkong to Ceylon has been approved, and he will probably leave during the forthcoming troopship season.

Sergeant John Walsh, of the United States army, has completed 7,000 miles of a long tramp which he has undertaken in order to test army boots. He left New York last April and is now returning from California in his fourth pair of boots.

Lieut. Denison Pudsey, R. G. A., has been appointed to the British Legation, Peking, in relief of Lieut. C. D. Tod, R. G. A., who returns to Hongkong. Lieut. Pudsey proceeds to Peking next month with the new R. G. A. detachment of 42 N. C. Officers and men.

At the Marine Court to-day before Commander Basil Taylor, R.N., a licensed passenger-boat woman named Li Ohn was charged by Mr. A. S. Woodgate, chief officer of the s/s Chip Shing with making fast to the vessel whilst under way. The defendant was fined \$10 or one month.

The Toyo Kisen Kaisha intimates that they are in receipt of cable advice from their Yokohama Agent to the effect that the silk shipped per the s.s. "Chiyo Maru" arrived in New York on Sunday morning, 13th inst., being 5 days, 7 hours after the steamer's arrival at San Francisco.

Crown Sergt. James Lee has been invalided from the Hongkong Police Force, and will leave for home about the middle of next month after a good record of service in the Colony. Sergt. Lee left the Royal Marine Artillery on February 2nd, 1900, with a corporal's discharge, to join the police, and he was made lance-sergeant on April 4th, 1902. In June, 1907, he was made Crown Sergeant. He was eleven years in the Fire Brigade, seven of which he was employed as engine driver. Sergt. Lee has not enjoyed good health for some time past, and his departure from Hongkong will be regretted by his many friends.

## CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

## Seven Robbery Charges.

The April Criminal Sessions opened this morning before the Chief Justice, Sir William Rees Davies, K.C., there being fifteen prisoners indicted in ten cases, seven of which were charges of robbery.

## CHARGE OF ROBBERY.

A well-dressed intelligent young man named Lau Chi Ming was charged with being concerned in a robbery with violence in the city on February 11, and with receiving the proceeds of the robbery, a large sum of money and valuable jewellery.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. P. H. F. Stowe (foreman), C. H. Buckingham, H. V. Peckey, A. Carmichael, B. K. Mehta, T. G. Weill, and W. H. Kylling.

Prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was represented by Mr. P. C. Jenkin, instructed by Mr. Reader Harris, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist. The Attorney-General, Mr. J. A. S. Bucknill, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, Mr. P. M. Hodgson, prosecuted on behalf of the Crown.

The Attorney-General informed the Court that the robbery in which the prisoner was charged with being concerned took place early on the morning of February 11 at a house in the city, No. 1, Square Street, occupied by four women.

The number of the robbers was not certain, but there were at least three. "Two men who were caught stated that the defendant was not only one of the party but was the instigator of the whole affair; and he was identified by one of the women. The third thing connecting prisoner with the robbery was that a finger ring which was stolen from the house was found on him and the other stolen articles were found in the house in which he was arrested."

Evidence was called, one of the two accomplices mentioned by the Attorney-General stating that he came down from Canton and met the prisoner, who asked him to go to the house of his mistress to steal. He went with the prisoner and was packing up jewellery and other things to take away when the police came and arrested him. The prisoner had then gone down the stairs with some bangles and rings which he had taken from his mistress.

The case was adjourned till Monday at 10.30 a.m.

BOWEL COMPLAINT IN CHILDREN.

DURING the summer months children are subject to disorders of the bowels and should receive the most careful attention. As soon as any natural looseness of the bowels is noticed Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy should be given. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

## A GERMAN'S DOWNFALL.

## Large Cheque Forgery.

## Three Years' Hard Labour.

At the April Criminal Sessions this morning before the Chief Justice, Sir William Rees Davies, K.C., William Bees Davies, K.C., William Aufmann, formerly a bookkeeper in the employ of Messrs. Arnold, Karberg and Co., was charged with forging two cheques, each of \$2,000, purported to have been drawn upon Messrs. Arnold, Karberg and Co., at the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, with intent to defraud his employers. There were other counts on the indictment, but the Attorney-General, Mr. J. A. S. Bucknill, K.C., who prosecuted, intimated that the Crown did not wish to proceed with them.

Prisoner, who pleaded guilty to both charges, was represented by Mr. H. E. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. Reader Harris, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist; the Attorney-General was instructed by Mr. P. M. Hodgson, Crown Solicitor.

The Attorney-General stated that the prisoner was a bookkeeper, in a very trusted and confidential position, and in the course of his duties had to fill up cheques on behalf of the firm. Prisoner seemed to have lost control of his letter model character, and though he came to Hongkong with excellent recommendations for trustworthiness and good conduct, after he had been with the firm only a comparatively short time he seemed to have contracted more debts than he was able to meet, or at any rate he seemed to have been anxious to acquire more money than he had. As the result of this, prisoner forged cheques in a somewhat ingenious manner. It was not necessary, as the prisoner had pleaded guilty, for him to explain how the forgeries were committed and covered up. It was sufficient to say that the sum involved in these two particular forgeries was \$4,000 and that accused went away to Manila, where he was captured. It was a point in the accused's favour that he at once returned to Hongkong and waived any question of extradition proceedings.

His Lordship remarked that he noticed that the cheques were made payable to Kwai Sang, and asked who this person was? The Attorney-General replied that there was perhaps such a person, but he was not known to the prosecution. Mr. Sharpe, addressing his Lordship, made a strong appeal for a lenient sentence in view of certain circumstances in the case. "As prisoner had pleaded guilty he was not there in any sense to defend him, but he was there to say how profoundly the prisoner regretted what he had done, and to put before his Lordship certain circumstances which he submitted might fairly be weighed in prisoner's favour. It would be seen from the depositions that, as the Attorney-General had already said, the prisoner had hitherto borne an excellent character with his employers, both here and at home. He came to Hongkong one and a half years ago with high recommendations and excellent testimonials and while with the firm, apart from this matter, conducted himself well. The only gentleman who gave evidence on behalf of the firm at the proceedings before the magistrate stated that defendant's antecedents and previous character were good. He was not a hardened criminal; very far from it. But the expenses and temptations of the East were apparently too much for the accused, and he got into difficulties, difficulties from which he attempted to extricate himself in this wrong way. He took the money of his employers hoping to be able to refund it. Such a course, wrong as they knew it to be, was frequently followed effectually. These improper borrowings of money were often made with no disastrous consequences. Another point which he thought might properly weigh in prisoner's favour was that he had not put the usual obstacles in the way of the prosecution, and had made no attempt to hide himself. His Lordship: In the way of money? Mr. Sharpe said all the money in the prisoner's possession, a sum of over \$3,000, had been handed over to Messrs. Arnold, Karberg by him. Prisoner was in Manila when these defalcations were discovered and he waived extradition proceedings and came to Hongkong. He stated that if possible he intended to make complete restitution to the firm, and telegrams had already passed between the prisoner and Europe. He was instructed that the prisoner had a wife and child in Europe and had heretofore been sending money for their support. They would therefore be the principal sufferers from any term of imprisonment to which he might be sentenced.

The Chief Justice asked if it was alleged that prisoner appropriated the money with the idea of sending it to his wife and child? Mr. Sharpe said it was not suggested that this was his sole motive, but that was one of his motives. "Whatever imprisonment was inflicted prisoner's social and financial position would be ruined, and any term in the case of a man of prisoner's position would be greater than to an ordinary person. The conditions of prison life in a tropical country were such as to involve extreme punishment to a man of prisoner's character."

The Chief Justice asked if Mr. Sharpe recommended any term of imprisonment? The Attorney-General stated that he recommended three years' hard labour on each count, the sentences to run concurrently.

## SPORTING.

## Cricket.

Kowloon v. CIVIL SERVICE. The following have been selected to play for Kowloon against Civil Service C. C. at Kowloon to-morrow at 2 p.m.: F. J. De Roma, A. R. Raven, K. R. Macaskill, H. S. Rowe, J. H. Mead, W. T. Elson, G. Wolf, B. D. Evans, H. Overy, E. J. Edwards and W. L. Weaver.

## Billiards.

The match between the 87th Coy., R. G. A., and Royal Engineers (A) team in the Soldiers' Club Billiard Tournament was continued at the Soldiers' Club last night.

The first pair to occupy the table were Bombr. Barker, 87th Coy., R. G. A., and Sergt. Regan, R. E. (A). A fairly good game ensued, but safety tactics were carried to the extreme. Barker was the first to reach 50, Regan's score being then 37, but the Engineer led at 100 with Barker 92. Play afterwards was slightly in favour of Barker who took the lead at 119 and maintained it to the end, winning by 13 points. Breaks—Barker, 13, 13, 10, 10; Regan, 13, 11, 10, 10. Scores—Bombr. Barker, 200; Sergt. Regan, 187.

The second game was between Gunner Bancroft, 87th Coy. R. G. A., and Corpl. Carpenter, R. E. (A). Bancroft soon established a good lead; at 50 he was 38 in front and he led at 100 by 68 points. The gunner played splendidly, making as good a show as yet seen in the Tournament without making any exceptional breaks. At 150 he held a lead of 90 and Carpenter, failing to touch his customary form, Bancroft won easily by 113 points. Breaks—Bancroft, 18, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 11; Carpenter, 11, 10. Scores—Gunner Bancroft, 200, Corpl. Carpenter, 87.

The 87th Coy. R. G. A. entered upon their games last night 106 points to the lead; the above two games have wiped off the deficit and put them 20 points in front. The scores now are—

87th Coy. R. G. A. 1008; Royal Engineers (A), 988. To-night the final games will be played: Bombr. Ward and Gunner Rowe will play for the 87th Coy., R. G. A., and Q. M. Sgt. Collings and Sergt. Heatley for R. E. (A).

## THREAT TO MURDER MR. CYRIL MAUDE.

Sending letters demanding money with menaces from Mr. Cyril Maude was the charge preferred at Bow-street Police Court on March 17 against Reginald Treloar, aged twenty-nine, clerk, and George Rowland Treloar, aged twenty-three, waiter, giving an address at College Street, Waterloo-road.

Mr. Henry Wilson, who presided, said that in addition to the charge of demanding money with menaces the accused were further charged with sending a letter threatening to kill Mr. Maude. On March 11 Mr. Maude received at the Playhouse Theatre, in an unstamped envelope the following letter:—

College-street, Belvedere-road, London, S.E.—Kindly send at once £5, or I will expose you and make your life a hell, as you made mine once. If I don't get £5 to-night, look out when you leave the theatre. I will do you in. Send money to me, c/o my brother, 8, Rochester-row, S.W.—Mr. Treloar. Be wise.

On receipt of that letter, Mr. Maude at once consulted the police, and on their advice he wrote and sent a reply as follows:—

Sir,—I cannot remember ever having made any man's life a hell, as you express it, and I am not in the habit of giving away £5 indiscriminately to any chance person. If however, you are in distress and need assistance, come to the stage-door here to-morrow at 5.45 (when the theatre is clear of people), and send down this letter to me.

Continuing, Wilson said that in reply to the letter another letter was received by Mr. Maude at the theatre, marked "Perfected." It was as follows:—

If you do not send the £5 to my brother at 8, Rochester-row, you will give me the death threat. Get it. Mr. Wilson remarked that Mr. Treloar was murdered as he was leaving the Adelphi Theatre.

The younger defendant called, at the theatre, and handed to the porter the letter by his brother Reginald, who was writing in the bar of the Avenue Hotel, close by. The officer then went to the hotel, and found the other defendant, whom he arrested. On the way to the station Reginald said: "I thought there would be trouble over this. I know Mr. Turner (Mr. Maude's manager), and I got two months for sending Mr. Cyril Maude some begging letters, but have gone straight since."

## A PARENT'S DUTY.

YOUR boy is always getting scratched by a cat or a dog. Because these things have been told to him he is always getting scratched. Get a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and see that every injury is cared for immediately. You can get a big bottle, better, and blood purifier, too dangerous to describe, for sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

## THE FRUIT SEASON.

BOWEL complaint is sure to be prevalent during the fruit season. Be sure to keep a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy on hand. It cures a life. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.



## BY TELEGRAPH.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

## THE BALLOON TRIP TO THE WEST INDIES.

LONDON, April 18.  
A telegram from Las Palmas states that the "Suchard" balloon was completely inflated yesterday night and the last preparations for the trip to the West Indies made when an escape of gas from the chief valve deflated the envelope. Bluecker was extremely annoyed, and telegraphed to Germany for the immediate despatch of hydrogen.

## THE CALIFORNIAN ALIENS BILL.

## SCORES OF PROTESTS.

LONDON, April 18.  
A message from Sacramento says that scores of letters and telegrams have been received protesting against the Alien Land Bill as being inimical to present and future investments of banking syndicates of London, Berlin and Paris in California.

The Bill has passed the Assembly. It permits Corporations controlled by persons eligible for citizenship to own property, but the Senate Bill classes all foreign syndicates and corporations as aliens, and their property is subject to escheat to the State after a term of years.

The Houses have to meet in conference to settle the question of amending the Bill.

The Assembly has passed another Bill aimed at the Japanese, requiring market fishermen of that race, who are ineligible for citizenship, to pay an annual tax of one hundred dollars, whereas other aliens are liable to twenty dollars.

## THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE SITUATION.

A telegram from Washington states that Mr. Bryan has conferred with President Wilson regarding the developments at the Californian Legislature. It appears that the Alien Land-Holding Bill is deemed more difficult than the original measure for Japan to oppose successfully, because it closely follows the lines of the Alien Ownership law, which during the past decade has been strictly enforced in the territories of the United States without objection from any Foreign Government. American political circles consider that to lodge an objection against the measure it would be necessary for Japan to extend to Americans resident in Japan the right to acquire property in fee simple.

## SUFFRAGISTS ARRESTED.

LONDON, April 17.  
Mr. George Lansbury, formerly Labour M. P. for Bow and Bromley, and Mrs. Drummond have been summoned to the Bow Street Police Court in connection with speeches made by them at the recent meeting at Albert Hall.

## DISCOUNT RATE.

LONDON, April 17.  
A telegram states that the discount rate has been fixed at 4½ per cent.

## FRANCE AND GERMANY.

## THE NANCY INCIDENT.

LONDON, April 17.  
A telegram from Berlin states that the papers give columns of indignant comment to the Nancy affair, and are publishing stories of the ill-treatment of Germans in the Riviera and elsewhere. The incident has aroused the sharpest anti-French outburst for years, even exceeding the feeling at the Agadir crisis.

## BRITISH VIEWS.

The Nancy incident is the sensation of the moment. All the British papers publish lengthy editorials, pointing out that the extraordinary feeling excited in Germany shows that tension exists there as well as in France. They express the opinion that Herr Jagow's remarks on French Chauvinism with out waiting for an explanation was probably due to the anxiety of the Government to pass the unpopular army taxation. They hope that the promptitude and good feeling with which the French Government acted will lead to an early subsidence of the storm in the Reichstag.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

## A BALLOON EXPLOSION.

## FOUR MEN KILLED.

LONDON, April 18.  
Two French officers, a non-commissioned officer and a civilian have been killed by the explosion of a spherical balloon near Villiers-sur-Marne.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS TO DISCUSS "VOTES FOR WOMEN."

LONDON, April 18.  
In the House of Commons, Mr. Lloyd George announced that the Government intended to allow May 6 and 7 to a discussion of Mr. Dickinson's Bill for the Enfranchisement of Women.

## TURCO-BALKAN WAR.

## A GRUESOME DUTY.

LONDON, April 18.  
A telegram from Sofia states that it is announced that the Turco-Bulgarian suspension of hostilities is merely a verbal agreement for the purpose of burying the dead.

## A "DIPLOMATIC FICTION."

The story regarding the cessation of hostilities is now stated to be a "diplomatic fiction" invented for the purpose of explaining to Bulgaria the necessity for agreeing to a truce with the Turks apart from the Allies.

## PARIS TO BERLIN IN THIRTEEN HOURS.

LONDON, April 18.  
The French aviator, M. Dancourt, flew from Paris to Berlin yesterday in 13 hours, 39 minutes.

## BRITISH AND AMERICAN VARSITY ATHLETICS.

LONDON, April 18.  
A message from New York states that Yale and Harvard Universities have invited Oxford and Cambridge Universities to an athletic meeting at the Harvard stadium in June or July.

## THE CANADIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER.

LONDON, April 18.  
A telegram from Sydney states that Mr. Foster, the Canadian Trade Commissioner, is returning to Canada via China and Japan.

## CHINESE WORKMEN IN INDIA EFFORT TO RESTRICT IT.

LONDON, April 17.  
In the House of Commons on Wednesday Sir H. S. King, alluding to a passage in the last report of Mr. Begg, consulting architect, regarding the increasing number of Chinese workmen employed on Indian buildings and operations, asked Mr. Montagu, Under Secretary of State for India, whether he would undertake that Chinese labour would not be employed in the construction of the new capital at Delhi.

Mr. Montagu said Lord Crewe had seen the passage and sympathized with Sir H. King's apprehension. He would bring the matter to the notice of the Government of India.

## THE UNITED STATES TARIFF BILL.

## THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS APPROVE.

LONDON, April 17.  
Mr. Underwood, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, expresses himself confident that the Tariff Bill will be approved by the caucus in the House of Representatives in the course of the next three or four days practically unamended.

The Democratic Caucus has voted decisively to place raw wool on the free list.

## THE BELGIAN STRIKE.

## SPREADING SLIGHTLY.

LONDON, April 17.  
A message from Brussels says that the strike in the various centres is undiminished. If anything, it is slightly spreading.

The Strike Committee announces that 272,000 have struck work, including Brussels 28,000, Ghent 19,000, Liege 65,000, Charleroi 76,000, Mons 52,000, and Central Belgium 45,000.

The Dargomaster of Antwerp admits that the traffic of the port is likely to be at a standstill for a few days.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

## FRENCH-CANADIANS AND BRITISH RULE.

LONDON, April 18.  
Earl Grey presided at the Colonial Institute luncheon in honour of Premier Gouin, of Quebec.

In the course of a speech, M. Gouin said that his ancestors had fought bravely to keep the Union Jack out of Canada, but after the decision of the battlefield they had fought no less bravely to keep it flying. They were proud to enjoy the rights of the Canadian Constitution and the blessings of representative government, and rejoiced in Great Britain's entente with France.

## THE LORDS AND THE ARMY ANNUAL BILL.

LONDON, April 18.  
In the House of Lords' debate on the second reading of the Army Annual Bill, Lord Lovat said that those interested in the defence of the country viewed with growing anxiety the Government's attitude towards defence at home and abroad.

Lord St. Audries expatiated on the dangers that would result if it were necessary to send an expeditionary force to the Continent, Egypt or India.

Lord Crewe said that the question was whether the reduction of the margin of safety aimed at in originally fixing the Territorial Force had been so reduced as to require immediate and heroic remedy. The situation though grave was not serious enough for a heroic remedy, but "it was clear we must maintain a considerable margin over the minimum." He regarded this as necessary for the security of the country. It was also clear that military authorities must carefully consider the present conditions and prospects of the Territorials, and see what steps could still be taken on the voluntary basis, in order properly to maintain the necessary margin. His Lordship thought that the country would be content to wait until Colonel Seely and his advisers made proposals with regard to the improvement and enlargement of the Territorials before embarking altogether on an unknown sea.

Lord Lansdowne referred to the "somewhat perplexing character" of the Ministerial utterances, and asked what the Government were going to do. He had listened carefully but had been unable to gather anything as likely particularly to happen.

Lord Herschell said the Government felt that there was no cause for panic or alarm, but they would not shrink from any step necessary for the national safety.

## IMPORTANT BRITISH IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE.

LONDON, April 18.  
A telegram from Ottawa states that Mr. Borden, the Premier, in an interview, said that the Press Conference to be held in Canada in 1914, he believed, would be of great Imperial importance. It would be given every reasonable official encouragement. Delegates were expected from India and other dominions, and they could be certain of a warm welcome.

## A "SUSPENDED" M.P.

LONDON, April 17.  
In the House of Commons, on Wednesday, Mr. Asquith moved that the period of suspension of Mr. William Moore, Conservative M.P. for North Armagh, who was suspended for making use of unparliamentary language in the House by describing Mr. Masterman's conduct as disgraceful, during the debate on the Naval Estimates last month, should cease. Replying to questions, he added that he had received no communication from Mr. Moore apologising for his conduct. The motion was carried.

## THE BUSHIRE OUTRAGE.

## DEMAND FOR COMPENSATION.

LONDON, April 17.  
A message from Teheran states that the Belgian Minister demands £5,000 as compensation for the murder of Madame Constant, the wife of the Belgian Director of Customs, at Bushire, last month.

## FRENCH CAPTAIN ARRESTED IN GERMANY.

LONDON, April 17.  
A telegram from Paris says that a French Captain named Le Maris has been arrested at Speyer. It is believed that there is some misunderstanding, as the officer was on regular leave and was travelling in Germany in a private capacity, and had no mission to perform.

## BY TELEGRAPH.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

## A REMARKABLE AVIATION JOURNEY.

LONDON, April 18.  
The well-known aviator, Mr. Hamel, with a passenger, flew from Dover to Cologne without stopping in 245 minutes.

## PRINCE OF WALES.

LONDON, April 18.  
The Prince of Wales has returned to London.

## OBITUARY.

LONDON, April 18.  
The death is announced of Mr. Gustav Wolf, one of the founders of Messrs Harland and Wolff, the great Belfast shipbuilding firm.

(Wah Tsz Yat Po's Service.)

## CHINESE NEWS.

PEKING, April 18.  
Considerable discussion has taken place in Parliament between members of the Ku Ming Tung and members of the three other Societies over the election of a Speaker. The meeting resulted in a disorderly quarrel.

The Minister for War, Tzu Chi Sui, has ordered Chang Kwai Ti, the Commander at Tungchow, to make preparation in case of emergency.

The Chinese Ambassador at Tokio has been authorised by the Cabinet to negotiate with the Brazilian Ambassador there to form a Sino-Brazilian Alliance. Chan Nai Chin has been dispatched to London by the anti-Opium Society to take part in the conference on the question of opium prohibition.

SHANGHAI, March 18.  
Ting Kwai Sing, the man charged with the murder of Sung Chiao-jen, has been handed over to the Chinese authorities.

## NEWS FROM HOME.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

## CHINA'S FINANCES.

It is reported in London that the Chinese Government has suspended all independent loan negotiations, and is taking much in the international effect of the meeting of the national Parliament. According to private advices there is little doubt that the United States will then recognise the new Government, and, in fact, it is affirmed, that warship arrangements have already matured for saluting the five-barred Republican flag. A correspondent writes:—"All this cannot but have a powerful influence on China's borrowing capacity and things, therefore, have taken a sharp and unexpected turn for the better."

The projected Chinese expedition to Mongolia is being taken seriously in St. Petersburg, and the following semi-official statement is made:—"The Russian Government, while still unwilling to credit China with any foolhardy designs, will be compelled to take counter measures if the concentration of Chinese troops in Manchuria continues."

## SIR HENRY'S DEATH.

Mr. M. A. Macauliffe, the chief modern authority on the Sikh religion, died on Saturday at Sinclair gardens, Kensington. Mr. Macauliffe passed the greater part of his career as an Indian in the Sikh districts of the Punjab, and retired at the age of 55 in order to devote the remainder of his life to a translation of the Sikh bible. This great work he duly accomplished, and the book was accepted and published at his own risk by the Clarendon Press, Oxford. The Indian Government offered Mr. Macauliffe £30 towards the expenses of the work, but this he rejected as an inadequate recognition of the greatness of his labours and of the importance of the Sikhs in the scheme of our Indian Empire.

WOMEN AS SOLICITORS.  
The right of women to enter the solicitor's profession is to be tried at law. Four ladies, all distinguished at either Oxford or Cambridge, quite recently applied for permission to attend the preliminary examination, and there was the usual refusal on the ground of sex. Writs have been issued against the Law Society, and the council have caused an appearance to be entered to that the matter can be argued and the law on the subject laid down with authority. The arguments will be heard in the Chancery Division of the High Court. In a previous case it was decided that a woman was not a "person" for this purpose, and it is round the wording of the Solicitors' Act that the battle will be waged. There is all the making of a nice legal argument, after which, should it prevail, women's sphere as a solicitor would not be confined to office work. A solicitor, moreover, has the right of audience in a county court.

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Hongkong, July 20, 1912.

FROM THE RANKS.

Considerable interest has been aroused by the War Secretary implying that in the Army a more general system of promotion from the ranks will shortly be introduced. There is reason to believe that this reform is imminent, as well as the corresponding action of the Admiralty in relation to promotion from the lower deck. The chance of obtaining a commission through the ranks has for a long time actually existed in the Army, but up to the present that chance has been decidedly remote. Two of the best known cases within the last few years are those of Major-General Leslie Gordon, V.C., who received his commission for gallantry at the Alma, and the late Sir Hector MacDonald.

Major-General W. R. Robertson, C.B., the present Commandant of the Staff College, served for over ten years in the ranks before obtaining his commission in the 3rd Dragoon Guards. The military secretary to the Commander in Chief in India, Brigadier-General W. E. Peyton, D.S.O., who formerly commanded the 15th Hussars, also spent some time in the ranks of the "Black Horse" before he was gazetted to a commission, and several commands are now held by "rankers."

THE LIFTON CHALLENGE.

It cannot be said that British yachtsmen worked up very much enthusiasm for the Lifton Challenge and the regret was that Sir Thomas had again decided to enter the useful contest. It was thought that the America Cup had, by the impossibility of the regulations on which America insisted, been ruled out as an international trophy. The quarrelling over these conditions in the past has been tedious and ill-natured. From a purely sporting point of view, it is argued, the America Cup is not worth competing for, at all events till its holders agree to accept a challenge under the so-called "universal" rule of rating. Sir Thomas proposed that the competing yachts should be limited to a fast-sailing of 75 feet, but this has been refused. We see the New York Club to recognize the international rules which have been adopted in every other country, they would lose the advantage of the handicap that is placed on competitors by the condition that the competing yacht must proceed under full sail, without having the option to place where the contest is to take place.

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